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10 July 1967

25X1

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

Vietnam: Fighting continues south of Demilitarized Zone. (Page 1)

Congo (Kinshasa): Europeans remain extremely anxious as antiwhite propaganda continues. (Page 5)

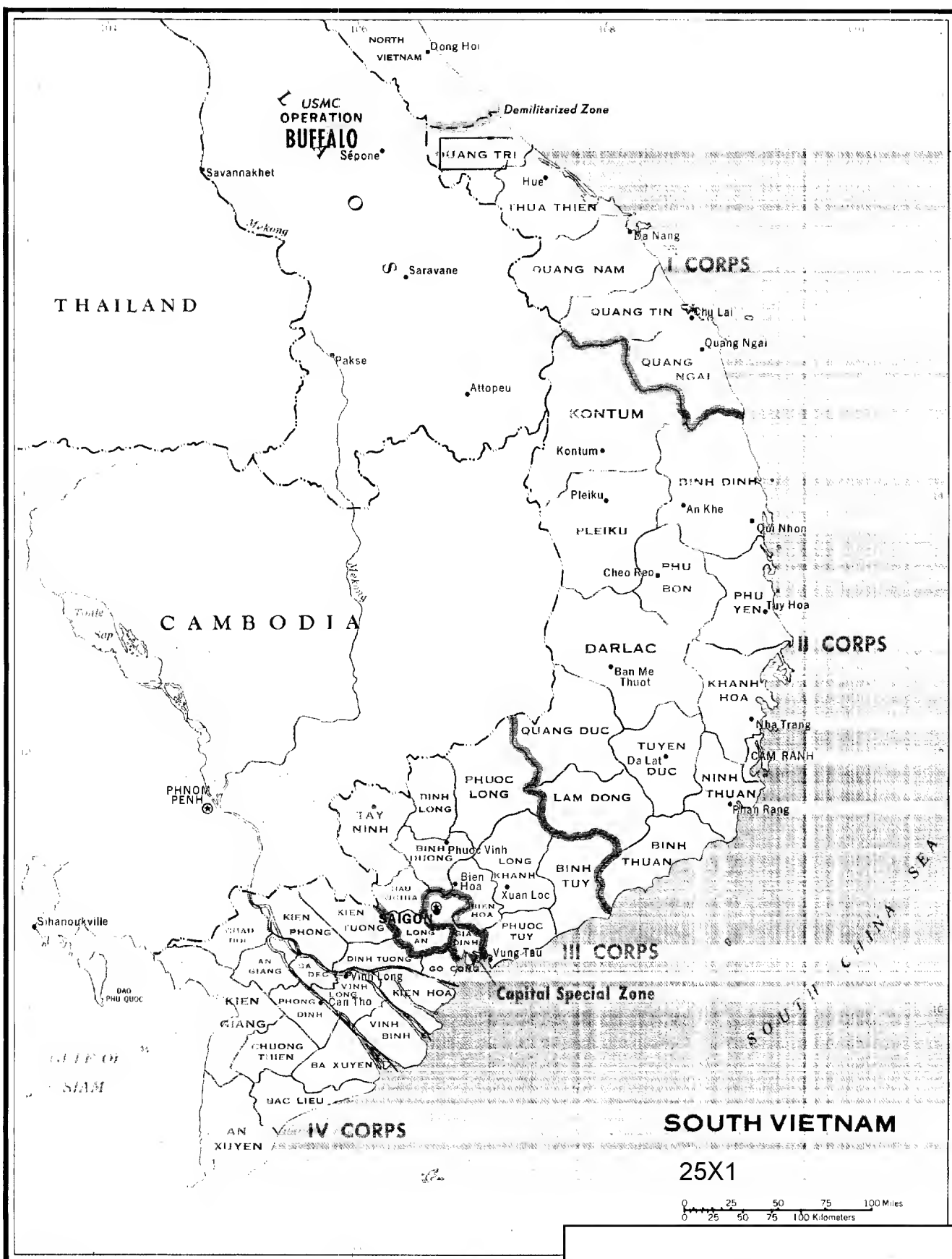
Nigeria: Federal government may be in for long campaign. (Page 6)

Communist China - Hong Kong: Peking unlikely to stage immediate showdown with British over Hong Kong. (Page 7)

USSR: Air show emphasizes tactical air power (Page 8)

India: Violence likely in West Bengal (Page 8)

25X1



*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: More than 550 Communist troops were reported killed in the eastern Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) area over the weekend as the result of almost continuous contact with US Marines supported by well-coordinated air and artillery attacks.

US Marines participating in seven-battalion Operation BUFFALO also reported continued heavy artillery and rocket fire from Communist positions within and north of the DMZ. Cumulative casualty figures for this week-old operation show American losses at 156 killed and 840 wounded. Enemy casualties now stand at 1,046 killed.

Viet Cong guerrillas exploded a Claymore-type mine outside a US barracks in Saigon late yesterday. A total of 14 Americans were wounded by the blast and by subsequent Communist sniper fire. Four South Vietnamese civilians were killed and another 19 were wounded. Other Viet Cong incidents in the Saigon area this past week included the sabotage of an oil line and the killing of eight South Vietnamese civilians. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The government apparently has laid the groundwork for the disqualification of Au Truong Thanh, the self-styled "peace candidate" in the presidential campaign.

A formal complaint was filed against Thanh on 6 July by a National Assembly deputy closely associated with the ruling Directorate. The complaint, which was given considerable publicity in Saigon, alleges that Thanh has a long history of pro-Communist activities, and calls for his disqualification under the provision of the election law that disallows the candidacy of anyone who "directly or indirectly...worked in the interests of Communism." The government also moved this weekend to discredit Thanh by linking his name with alleged pro-Viet Cong intellectuals who were recently arrested in Saigon.

(continued)

10 Jul 67

1

There apparently is widespread sentiment in the National Assembly and among the military that Thanh has gone too far in pushing his "peace at any price" line. The US Embassy believes that the government's campaign against Thanh is also meant as a warning to other presidential and assembly candidates that discussion of the peace issue must be kept within acceptable limits. [REDACTED]

10 Jul 67

2

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010100070001-1

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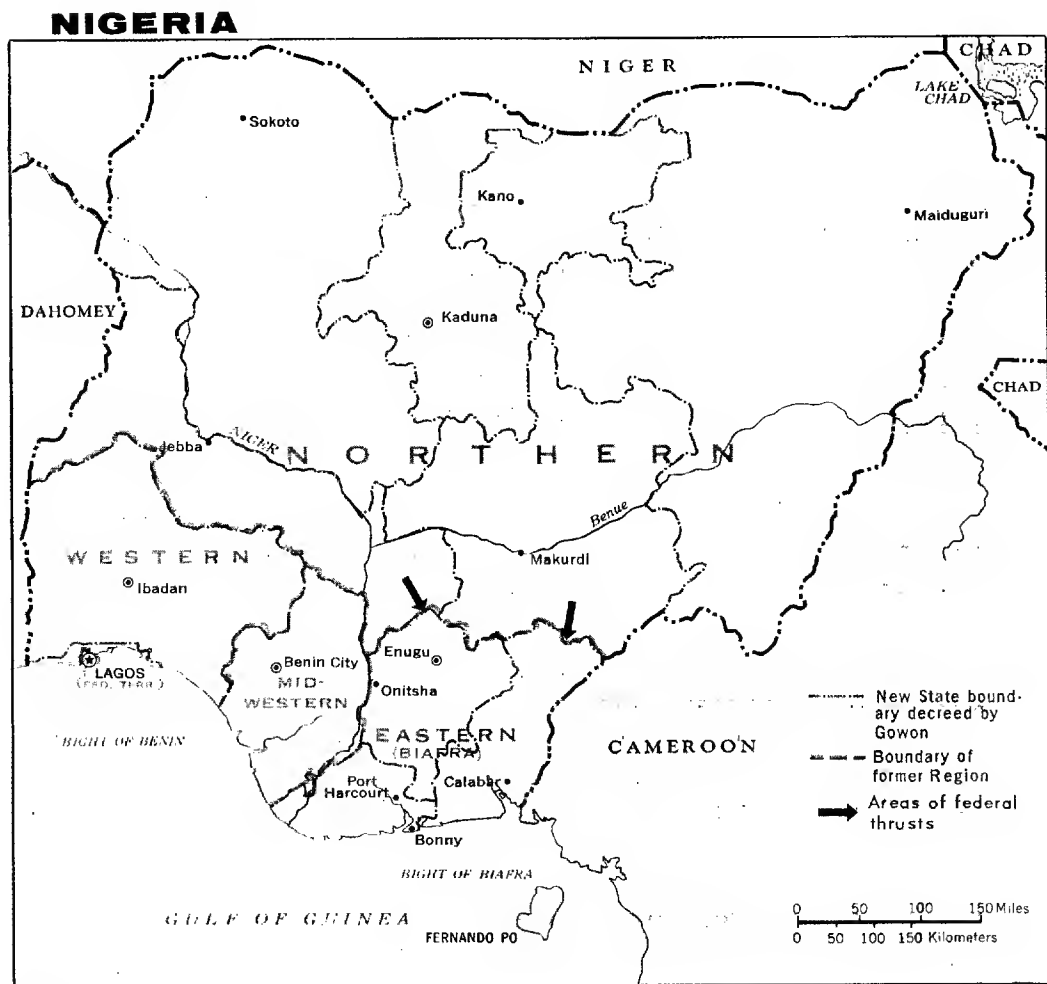
Congo (Kinshasa): The European population of the Congo remains extremely anxious in the face of continued inflammatory antiwhite propaganda from Congolese radio and television.

The state of near panic that existed on 7 July following the murder of several Europeans in Lubumbashi (formerly Elizabethville) and Bukavu has somewhat subsided, however. There have been no confirmed reports of new killings, although housebreaking and looting continue and there are unconfirmed reports of extensive brutality by Congolese troops in Kisangani (formerly Stanleyville). American officials in Lubumbashi believe there is no immediate need for evacuation of American citizens.

European--primarily Belgian--employees of Gecomine (the Congolese company that took over Union Miniere du Haut Katanga) have resigned en masse, giving 15 days notice. Their departure would force a shutdown of the Katanga copper mines which, in turn, would have a devastating effect on the Congo's economy. Congolese borders have been closed since the beginning of the mutiny, however, and foreigners are forbidden to leave. Despite Mobutu's assurances that this ban will be lifted soon, he may not allow a mass departure of needed European technicians. European railroad employees in Katanga have also resigned and Sabena airlines personnel have sought government assurances of their safety. [REDACTED]

10 Jul 67

5



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Nigeria: The Nigerian civil war, which began early on 6 July with federal army attacks on the secessionist Biafrans, may continue for some time.

Conflicting reports continue to be received from both Lagos and Enugu as to the course of the battle that is taking place in two sectors--in the northeastern and northwestern corners of Biafra. Casualties have occurred on both sides, with the heaviest fighting reported in the northeast.

According to a high Nigerian officer, the federal government's "Operation Unicorn" has as its major objective the regaining of control over the minority tribal area along the Cameroon border, recently formed into a separate state by federal decree. Federal forces plan to hold fast northwest of Enugu in order to tie down Biafran forces there, leaving the way open to march to the coast at Calabar. Nevertheless, in view of the rains now in progress and the difficult logistical problems faced by the federal forces, it would probably take at least a week for federal troops to travel on foot even if they were unopposed. Federal plans also call for a seaborne invasion of the southwestern coastal area sometime this week.
(Map)

10 Jul 67

6

Communist China - Hong Kong: Peking apparently intends to keep the Hong Kong issue hot but the Chinese Communist reaction to the border clash on 8 July does not point to an immediate showdown with the British.

The Foreign Ministry note delivered yesterday blamed the Hong Kong authorities for the incident and demanded that the British apologize, punish those responsible, pay compensation, and guarantee that no similar incidents would occur in the future. It did not set a deadline, however, and was not so strongly worded as some previous Chinese statements on Hong Kong.

Although the Communist leadership in Hong Kong was apparently not forewarned, it seems likely that the incident was premeditated and that the Chinese accepted the possibility that it would develop into an armed clash. Five Chinese Army officers were observed in the area on 6 July, apparently inspecting the border village where the incident subsequently took place. A Chinese Army battalion was moved up to the frontier while the clash was in progress.

The British believe that the incident was intended as a reminder of what the Chinese Communists can do if they choose, and London sees a "clear risk" that more clashes of this sort will take place. The Communist zealots in Hong Kong provoked a riot yesterday in which one policeman and a number of demonstrators were killed. Communist-controlled schools in the Colony are reported to be taking steps to keep students on hand during the summer vacation to take part in further antigovernment activity.

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25X1

10 Jul 67

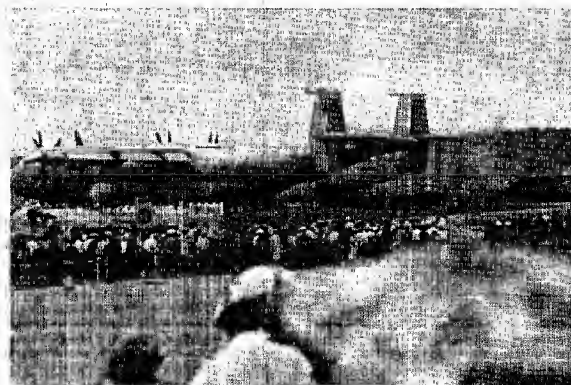
7



VARIABLE-GEOMETRY (SWING-WING) JET WITH WINGS EXTENDED FOR LOW-SPEED CONTROL AND SWEEPED BACK FOR HIGH-SPEED FLIGHT



VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING (VTOL) JET FIGHTER



AN-22 COCK TRANSPORT UNLOADING FROG TACTICAL MISSILES

NOTES

USSR: The USSR publicly displayed several new aircraft for the first time on 8 and 9 July at a Moscow Aviation Day air show. The large-scale air show emphasized tactical air power through fly-bys of two variable-geometry (swing-wing) fighters, a flight demonstration by a rocket-armed vertical take-off (VTOL) jet fighter, rocket assisted take-offs of operational military aircraft, the unloading of FROG tactical missiles from AN-22 Cock military transport aircraft, and an airdrop of 1,200 paratroops with equipment. Among the other new aircraft displayed was a missile-equipped interceptor which will augment the Soviet Air Defense Forces.

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25X1

India: Factional strife between radical left Communists (CPI/L) in West Bengal could spark further public disorders. CPI/L extremists--encouraged by the success of an isolated peasant and tribal revolt in northern West Bengal and by Chinese Communist propaganda--planned to hold a series of public meetings beginning on 8 July to demonstrate their strength and flaunt their commitment to "Mao Tse-tung's thought." Violent clashes with more moderate CPI/L elements and with non-Communists are likely, especially in the populous Calcutta area. Violence may also erupt in the troubled northern area of the state, where between 1,000 and 1,500 state police have been dispatched to suppress the incipient rebellion.

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10 Jul 67

8

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